

Take a Stand for Hemlocks:
Citizen Scientist Survey for Detection of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
A Maine Forest Service Workshop for Community Volunteers

PLACE: York Public Library, York, ME
DATE: Saturday, March 17, 2007
TIME: 9:00 AM. to 3:00 PM
COST: Free



Preregistration Required: Register by Friday,
March 9, 2007. See Contact Information Below

A training on sampling for detection of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is being offered to community volunteers by the Maine Forest Service. The HWA is a serious insect pest of hemlock, has been spreading through eastern U.S. for over 50 years. HWA was found for the first time in Maine on native hemlocks in 2003 on Gerrish Island. The Maine Forest Service has since identified scattered light to moderate infestations over an area of 6500+ acres in Kittery, York, Wells, South Berwick, and Eliot using ground surveys. The Maine Forest Service is seeking help from community volunteers to look for signs of HWA in York County using a sampling plan for HWA detection. This workshop is open to up to 30 participants who are willing to apply the HWA detection sampling in Maine. Volunteers will be asked to survey an adopted hemlock stand annually. This will require approximately ½ day to 1 full day in the hemlock stand each year. Sampling results will be collected, compiled and used in HWA population assessments by the Maine Forest Service.

The workshop involves classroom training and a trip to an infested hemlock forest. A simple and effective sampling plan developed at the University of Vermont will be presented. In addition you will learn about the biology of HWA and its history in Maine. In a nearby infested forest, you will see HWA first-hand and become familiar with its field characteristics and those of its host. This will also be an opportunity to do a dry run of the sampling plan.

After completing the training participants will have the ability to conduct a systematic surveillance for HWA infestations. The network of volunteers with increased awareness of HWA and the data gathered by those volunteers are extremely valuable to the Maine Forest Service's efforts to manage HWA.

Suggested supplies: Each participant will need proper attire for a 2-1/2 hour (+/-) session in the woods (not always on trails). If available, participants should bring a compass, a hand lens (or magnifying glass), a clip board and a pencil.

Contact Information: Allison Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Insect and Disease Lab, 48 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330; (207) 287-3147; allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov